

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-138 Cancelled.

139. (New) A sheath for removably covering at least part of an implantable object that carries a therapeutic substance, wherein the sheath comprises a sheath material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the sheath.
140. (New) The sheath of Claim 139 wherein the implantable object is a balloon integrated with a catheter.
141. (New) The sheath of Claims 139-140 wherein the balloon material, sheath material, or both comprise the same or different polymeric material.
142. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.
143. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment wherein the non-polar soft segment is selected from hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, or their mixtures.
145. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the implantable object comprises a stent.
145. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the polymeric material comprises polyolefins, polyurethanes, derivatives of cellulose, polyesters, polyamides, poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), poly(hydroxy amide ethers), polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate co-

polymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), liquid crystal polymers, poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrenes, polycarbonates, poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), epoxies composed of bisphenol A based diepoxides with amine cure, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), poly(amino ethers), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, or their mixtures.

146. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the layer comprises a therapeutic substance contacting surface.
147. (New) The sheath of Claim 146 wherein the therapeutic substance contacting surface contacts a coating comprising a main-group-element oxide.
148. (New) The sheath of Claim 147 wherein the main-group-element oxide comprises a silicon oxide, metal oxide, or a mixture of a silicon and a metal oxide.
149. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the sheath material is deposited on at least a portion of the inner surface of the sheath in a layer.
150. (New) The sheath of Claim 149 wherein the implantable object is disposed within the sheath for transportation or storage.
151. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the material is selected from:

polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature;

polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment wherein the non-polar soft segment is at least one of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, or mixtures thereof;

at least one cellulose derivative selected from cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof; sulfonated polymers; fluorinated polymers;

carbide compounds;

nitride compounds;

a polyolefin that is at least one of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), or mixtures thereof;

a polyester that is at least one of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), or mixtures thereof;

a polyamide that is at least one of nylon-6; nylon-6,6; nylon-6,9; nylon-6,10; aromatic nylon; or mixtures thereof; and

mixtures of a)-j)).

152. (New) The method of Claim 151 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.

153. (New) The method of Claim 151 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment wherein the non-polar soft segment is selected from hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, or their mixtures.

154. (New) The method of Claim 151 wherein the implantable object comprises a

stent.